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ENG 201 (REALLY) Rough Draft

TOPIC: Profanity vs. Gender

Main Points:

* The history of swearing expectations between the sexes, and how profane language has evolved.
* As swear words have changed and we have become desensitized to them, has that changed the acceptability of women swearing?
* Is profanity perceived differently when said by different sexes?
* Who swears more, males or females? (backed by studies)
* Why do people even swear?
* How swearing is seen in the “business world”

I grew up in a middle-of-nowhere backcountry town full of northern “rednecks”, which are really just considered hicks. In our one-stoplight town (don’t be fooled, it’s just a blinking red) hobbies include hunting, fishing, mudding and spitting—tobacco that is. Needless to say, swearing is a common occurrence from both men and women. However, this is not to say that swearing is commonly accepted coming out of a girl or woman’s mouth. If the guys were caught swearing at school, it would be a stern glare and a “knock it off”. If a girl was caught with the same words coming out of her mouth, it was a conversation in the hallway about how that is not an appropriate thing for a young lady to say. As a young woman, I will attest that this outlook on profanity is bullshit.

Gender stereotypes are still very prevalent in today’s society, and the use of language by those of different genders is no exception. The reaction of hearing a man swear versus hearing a woman say those same words is very different. With men, typically people won’t think twice, as swearing has always been seen as a masculine thing. However, when a woman swears, often people feel a twinge of shock hearing such profane words leave a woman’s mouth. Many people from our generation have become desensitized to profanity, as it has become such a regular part of conversation, but today’s young adults use of language and profanity is completely different from how it once was.

(This is a paragraph I have had not had time to do extensive research on yet---This is where I am going to touch on the history of profanity/swearing, and how women were expected to speak. Then go more in-depth on how this has changed, and where we are now.)

As mentioned prior, many people perceived swearing differently out of a man’s mouth, then a woman’s. Why is this? Since the history of women’s use of language steered them clear of using any profanity to help seem more attractive as well as more prim and proper, this ancient outlook is still clouding some people’s minds. I have many female friends who have even taken a vow to never say “fuck” their entire lives, just because their parents told them it’s not lady-like. I’m sure you can imagine my response to that. (I have a source that I will add in about high schools forcing young girls to take the same vow/oath to now swear. I also have another source that tells how certain dating sites will advise women not to swear online while chatting, or in their bios because it is seen as ‘unattractive’. While, sure, some people may just not like profanity, that does not mean that women should be singled out and told that swearing will make them less appealing to those they are looking to date. These double standards need to be torn down, and I am going to try to incorporate this more into an argument…maybe make two paragraphs out of this?)

(This paragraph is going to show studies done about which genders do more of the swearing, or if today it has really equaled out. I have a couple sources on this, but I want to dig deeper on researching this so I can have a better thought out idea. If the research does show that that the use of profanity is equal between the different genders, then that will help my arguments as to why people need to stop judging women to harshly for swearing. While yes, there are many more serious and important issues in the women’s rights movement, this small aspect of it would only help women come one step closer to gender equality/neutrality. I’m open to any thoughts on my argument!!)

Why do people even want to swear? (need research need research need research so sorry I have not had time to do most of this because of a stupid 10 page term paper that was thrown on me last week \*cries…..I’m going to research this topic and develop it better to fit into my paper.)

Okay I’m starting to ramble, but I just needed to get some ideas down on paper. PLZ HELP ME GUYS. I’m open to any and all ideas. The writer’s block is too real right now after that stupid term paper. ☹